Loss caused due to software piracy

3197. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has estimated that the loss caused to the manufacturers of software in this country due to software piracy is Rs. 72 crores;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what remedial action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) As per the analysis by NASSCOM the estimated loss due to Software Piracy in the year 1991-92 was Rs. 75 crores.

(c) Various measures taken by the Department of Electronics to check software piracy are :

(i) Software is permitted to be freely imported in India;

(ii) All the major Government users have been advised to use only licensed software products;

(iii) Department of Electronics has been closely interacting with the MAIT and NASSCOM in this regard, as a result of this a non-profit company "India Federation Against Software Theft" (INFAST) has been formed with the objective to render protection against software piracy to Indian and Foreign software products;

(iv) Monitoring Committee on Software Piracy has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Electronics; and

(v) To bring down the prices of the imported software packages, authorised duplication of these packages has been allowed.

Assistance by European Community in upgradation STQC laboratories

3198. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Community has agreed to assist in upgreding the laboratories of STQC;

(b) what is the nature of this assistance;

(c) what are the names of the laboratories which are selected for this Assistance; and

(d) what is the criterion for the selection of such laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, under the Indo-EEC Memorandum on Technical Co-operation, one of the identified areas of co-operation is Quality Assurance and Safety Certification.

Employees availing voluntary retirement Scheme

@3199. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of employees from public and private sector undertakings which have taken advantage of voluntary retirement scheme as on date;

(b) the number of employees who were subjected to income tax;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have received representations from employees organisations to make the scheme more attractive;

(d) if so, details of the representations received; and

(e) what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) As far as Central PSEs are concerned, about 78,562 employees have opted for voluntary retirement in 100 PSEs, which operated Voluntary Retirement Scheme during the last 3 years i.e.1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93. Information in respect of private sector enterprises is not maintained centrally.

(b) The scale of compensation to the employees who opted for voluntary retirement depends upon the scales of pay

@Previously Unstarred Question 1838, transferred from 9th August, 1993.